

## Finding the Subject

**2e.** The subject of a sentence is never in a prepositional phrase.

**EXAMPLE** **Three** of the animals are at the watering hole. [*Three* is the subject. *Animals* is the object of the preposition *of*.]

Questions often begin with a verb, a helping verb, or a word such as *what*, *when*, *where*, *which*, *how*, or *why*. The subject of a question may follow the verb or may come between the helping verb and the main verb.

**EXAMPLE** In which country does the largest **herd** live? [The subject *herd* comes between the helping verb *does* and the main verb *live*.]

The word *there* or *here* is almost never the subject of a sentence. To find the subject, ask “Who?” or “What?” before the verb.

**EXAMPLE** There are two **species** of African rhinoceroses. [What are? *Species* are.]

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, circle the subject of the underlined verb.

**Example 1.** How many kinds of rhinoceroses exist in the world?

1. There are five types of rhinoceroses.
2. What are the two species of African rhinoceroses called?
3. Here are some pictures of the black rhinoceros.
4. Where did the name for the black rhinoceros originate?
5. Can these rhinoceroses really uproot bushes and small trees?

**EXERCISE B** For each of the following sentences, underline the subject once and the verb twice.

**Example 1.** How can we save this rhinoceros?

6. For what reasons are these African rhinoceroses in need of protection?
7. There is much interest in the black rhinoceros of Africa.
8. Is poaching affecting the survival rate of the black rhinoceros?
9. How have people like Kenneth Manyangadze helped the black rhinoceros?
10. Will Save Valley Wildlife Conservancy provide a safe home for African rhinoceroses?
11. In the preserve, there is a special area for the black rhinoceroses.
12. Where did Manyangadze see that two-ton female black rhinoceros?
13. How have volunteers saved some black rhinoceroses from poachers?
14. Here is a helpful tracking device.
15. In what ways can a tracking collar pinpoint the location of a rhinoceros in the wild?